NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Acting Chairman Michael Copps Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein Commissioner Robert McDowell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

June 3, 2009

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

The National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN) is one of America's largest and oldest grassroots multi-issue membership organizations. NAN strongly supports the value of broadband technology in establishing "virtual neighborhoods" that link residents to their communities and each other. Broadband creates opportunities for civic and social engagement, economic empowerment, better health services and educational resources. Broadband has become a necessary utility that should be available to every American.

Unfortunately, this is not yet the case. As the FCC creates a national broadband strategy this year, we trust that the Commission will take action to increase broadband deployment and adoption. It is imperative that the FCC eliminate barriers that inhibit home broadband adoption. Further, we expect the plan to incorporate policies that will promote deployment, as well as adoption.

Broadband prices have dropped in recent years, due to private sector investment. The FCC's plan should maintain private sector participation so prices can remain low and more Americans can afford broadband service. It is our concern that prices will rise, leaving consumers with higher bills, if private sector providers do not see the value of investment.

NAN urges the FCC to bring broadband to every neighborhood and home so that all Americans can harness the full power of the Internet.

Sincerely

Ricardo C. Byrd Executive Director

National Association of Neighborhoods

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